

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicants submitted a certified copy of the priority document on November 20, 2003, as shown in the image file wrapper in PAIR. Confirmation of receipt of the priority document is respectfully requested in the next Office Action.

Applicants also respectfully request confirmation in the next Office Action that the formal drawings filed November 20, 2003 are acceptable.

Claims 1-10 are pending. In the Office Action, Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Toombs in combination with Maul. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 3-10 have been amended for clarity of expression and to address the outstanding rejection.

In particular, without acceding to the rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the interface unit switches from a high resistance value resistor to a low resistance value resistor before performing a mode determination for the memory card based on an input from a select terminal during a mode determination period, performs the mode determination using the low resistance value resistor, switches back to the high resistance value resistor after the mode determination period, and then is capable of starting data input for data storing or data output for data

reading from/to a device outside the memory card based on a protocol resulting from the mode determination.

Furthermore, Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the internal circuit lowers, in a mode determination period for performing a mode determination in response to an initialization command and based on an input from a select terminal, a value of a pull-up resistance before a determination timing, raises the value of the pull-up resistance to an initial resistance value after the mode determination period, and then starts communicating between an outside device of the memory card based on a protocol resulting from the mode determination made using the lowered resistance value.

In addition, Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the internal circuit lowers, in a mode determination period for performing a mode determination in response to an initialization command and based on an input from a select terminal, an input impedance before a determination timing, raises the input impedance to an initial value after the mode determination period, and then starts communicating between an outside device of the memory card based on a protocol resulting from the mode determination made using the lowered impedance value.

These features are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art of record. Maul, for example, describes a method that switches to low resistance to smoothly couple a

peripheral assembly 2, 3 to the power supply of a bus 5. At minimum, Maul does not teach or suggest a circuit or an interface unit that lowers a resistance value of a pull-up resistance, or in input impedance, for mode determination, and then starts communicating between an outside device of the memory card based on a protocol resulting from the mode determination made using the lowered resistance/impedance value. As acknowledged in the Office Action, neither does Toombs. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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